BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine

Nr 9: November - December 2012

Interviews

MY WAY MY LOVE

Capella

Magistina Saga

Galaxy 7

Miss Kittiness

Fashion

Mori-kei

INORAN

Exclusive interview and concert reviews

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INTRODUCTION

First of all: HAPPY HALLOWEEN everyone! I have to admit that I am pretty gleeful about the fact that we released the end of year edition of BCM on this holiday because it's a pet peeve of mine that there's always so much Christmas and Sinterklaas (Belgian and Dutch holiday) around before Halloween has been. So yes, a little bit of vengeance of my part and of course a Halloween present to all our readers!
Of course the Christmas fans aren't left in the cold, we have not one but two Christmas greeting cards by talented Belgian artists Annso Vermeylen and Malou Rottiers.
And check out the very festively spooky (it has a red bow in it ok!) art by the amazing Selina Davison!
For those still looking to make handmade gifts: check out our awesome book purse tutorial!

Issue 9 has turned out to be our biggest yet. With event reviews, Japanese fashion with our Mori-kei feature and interview with Australian indi brand Ms Kittiness. And of course music with our reviews and interviews. We have the much anticipated part two of our INORAN interview series, and spoke to YUKIO MURATA of MY WAY MY LOVE as well as the up and coming young bands Capella and Magistina Saga.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in Chief

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Forum of the Belgian Cupcakes Lolita fashion group:
http://belgiancupcakes.proboards.com/index.cgi

MORI GIRL is one of the more popular styles of contemporary Japanese fashion. Based on, often ethereal, forests and fairy tales, it's a style that appeals to many for its wearability and accessibility to literally all ages. Parents dressed up in mori-kei together with their children is neither unheard of nor frowned upon. Aside from this, it is also an all season kind of style thanks to the typical layering: just add more or less depending on the temperature as only the silhouette and colours are the things you should really pay attention to.

Even though there are several styles within mori-kei, the key elements remain the same: a basis of earth tones ranging from creams and beiges to browns with elements or accents of earthly greens, greys and whites.

Skirts and trousers are worn equally, although skirts are by far more popular with girls. The length ranges from anywhere from slightly above the knee (not mini!) to touching the ground. Often several skirts are worn over one another for the layering effect, although sometimes this is accomplished with long, and often oversized, tops as well.
Trousers range from bloomer like shorts to loose pants, Bermuda shorts and slacks. Things like (skinny) jeans have no place in mori, if you want a normal cut pair of pants, look for something like traditional velveteen or corduroy trousers.
Cardigans, be they long or short (never cropped) are also popular garments on colder days.

Whilst mori-kei is often a sober (not sombre) style, prints are not unheard of but they're always subtle such as small polkadots, a discrete stripe or a nice animal print such as deer spots. Subtlety is the key word when dealing with this style.

Cosy, cute and vintage style hats such as schoolgirl hats and (animal eared) bowlers as well as knitted hats are commonplace but by no means a necessity. Wearing your hair down like it is, putting it up in a comfortable style (it can be a little messy it doesn't have to be prim and precise, as long as it's clean it's all good) or wearing flowers in it is also often done in this fashion.
Footwear ranges from comfortable boots, clogs, combat boots to even hiking boots and all kinds of sandals, mary janes and more elegant footwear. As long as it's the right colour and matches your outfit it's all good. Socks (and legwarmers in colder seasons) are often used to further the layering of an outfit, but normal socks, or socks with added lace are also often found.
A handy tip: if you can't find lace socks, use wristcuffs as sock toppers. Or if you can't get your hands on slouchy socks, buy over the knee socks or thigh highs and push them down for the slouch effect (you can do the same with cut off tights as well in slightly warmer seasons). And in summer you can just wear no socks at all in a nice pair of mori style sandals. Toes are allowed to be seen in mori fashion after all.
Other popular accessories include (faux) fur scarves, comfortable long scarves (any kind, as long as it matches your coordinate) and accessories featuring forest elements and woodland animals such as necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings and brooches.

Make-up is always neutral and matching the style, nude and earthly make-up is definitely chosen over bright and over the top. The same goes for nail varnish. Elaborate nail art has no place within Mori-kei, even though subtle things such as newspaper nails are perfectly acceptable.

DIFFERENT STYLES OF MORI-KEI

Mori Girl

This is probably the best known and archetypical styles within mori-kei: girls dressed in earth tones and many layers, like they just stepped out of a forest themed fairy tale. Looking elegant and quiet, like the deer. Mori girl is the style that embodies all the basics of the style and can range from slightly scruffy looking to very classy and elegant, depending on your use of layers and garments.
Earth tones are key and colour combinations often used are creams, beiges with soft browns (dark brown is allowed but nothing darker than milk chocolate) or whites, creams and greys.

The new, seaside variety of Mori-girl is called hama girl and sees the addition of nautical colours such as navy, prints such as the mariniére stripe and waterproof footwear such as cute wellies in addition to the normal ensembles.

Mori boy

The male variety of Mori Girl. As is typical for many Japanese fashion styles, this is not gender limited. Many girls have taken to wearing the boy variety of Mori and it is perfectly acceptable.
The layering remains but the skirt is changed for trousers. When girls wear the style you quite often see bloomer like shorts and obviously female cut trousers, but when men wear it, it is definitely all trousers and shorts found in the men's wear department.
So even though it isn't a gender limited style an sich, it is still very gender defined by the kind of trousers you wear.
The other garments such a t-shirts, vests and cardigans are all very masculine in cut.
Girls may of course choose female versions but often opt for the boyfriend cut variety to give their outfit a more masculine feel.

Dark Mori

Sometimes also referred to as *Black Forest Mori*.
This far darker style embodies the dark side of fairy tales, the traditional tales of old that were far scarier than the fairy tales we know nowadays. Whereas the original silhouette remains, the colours are far darker. Very dark browns with black (and sometimes all black) are mixed with the traditional shades of Mori-kei or are the only colours used with this particular style.
Where normal accessories in mori are quite demure and elegant they step nearly into the realms of *Dolly-kei* with animal skulls, antler hairbands and (faux) animal stoles such as foxes and minks. Of course you can just stick to the normal headwear, scarves and accessories just as well as such is a matter of personal preference.

Fusion styles

When mori kei floods over into other styles such as steampunk or Lolita.
The elegance of mori makes it perfect to incorporate into a Lolita style.
Outfits adhering to the traditional layering and colouration of mori yet still adhering to the traditional Lolita rules of silhouette are fairly commonplace nowadays.
The scruffier, contemporary steampunks also find mori girl appealing, especially when going for a more natural or post-apocalyptic style of steam.
Whilst these are two examples they are by no means the only style mixes possible. As long as you keep basic rules of styles in mind and those work for both styles you wish to mix, fusion should be possible.

Mori girls and boys, the followers of the
fairytale like forest fashion style
hailing from Japan. Beware though
some of these fairytales
are dark, just like
those of
the olden days...
fashion straight from the forest
MORI-KEI

Glasses, Theo. **Hat with pom poms**, Primark. **Woolen cowl**, Primark. **Faux fur stole**, H&M. **Faux leather aviator jacket**, H&M. **Woolen armwarmers**, H&M. **Leather gloves**, Hema. **Longline cardigan**, Hema. **Leather bag with keyplate detail**, Fossil. **Skirt with flock roses**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Lycra leggings**, H&M. **Snow boots with faux fur**, A.

Jacket, Chicwish. **Shirt**, Monki. **Scarf**, Unknown. **Crochet piece**, found in a fabric store. **Bag**, Asos. **Pants**, a small, local store. **Tulle socks**, American Apparel. **Boots**, Vagabond.

Bonnet, antique. **Bag,** crocheted by a friend. **Belt**, Claire's. **Everything else,** thrifted.

Braided hairband, Veritas. **Deconstructed scarf**, H&M. **Faux fur stole**, River Island. **Necklaces**, handmade and vintage. **Leather bow bracelet**, Poorman's Gold. **Bracelets**, handmade, INORAN and Fossil. **Leather armour ring**, Poorman's Gold. **Knitted top with shortened sleeves**, EDS. **Oversized sleeveless top**, H&M. **Grey skirt with black print and netting overlay**, Cora Kemperman. **Long striped underskirt**, House of Secrets Incorporate. **Military style boots**, Kickers.

Flower headband: foxcherry. **Scarf:** Münster market. **Top:** Primark. **Skirt:** handmade by Clara. **Belt:** C&A. **Sandals:** C&A. **Necklace:** Atelier Tausendschön. **Bag:** vintage.

Event: Abunai 2012: The Incredible Journey
(10th anniversary edition)
When: August 24 - 26
What: J-culture convention
Where: NH Koningshof
Veldhoven, the Netherlands
Ticket price: varies, see the website for more information
Info: www.abunaicon.nl

This year's **Abunai! The Incredible Journey** convention was on Friday 24, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 August, and I was there for the better part of Saturday.

First of all, the entrance hall was huge, which gave the impression that the whole convention would be open and spacy. It wasn't. It's a whole collection of rooms, connected by a maze of corridors. This makes more sense when I tell you the convention takes place in a hotel, so most people there, as well as the live band stayed right there for the whole weekend.

The different rooms were named after places in Tokyo, like Roppongi, Akihabara etc. and held numerous activities such as lectures, a library, DDR, a game room, and of course a dealer room. What stood out the most to me, in comparison to Belgian cons, the dealer room wasn't the main attraction. In fact, it was just as big as, say, the room where they showed dramas or anime.

As for the convention itself, it was packed with cosplayers, as you'd expect, and the crew were totally awesome. They were always friendly and ready to help you with any questions you might have and will happily direct you to the room you're looking for. It really is a maze in there, and it's easy to get lost.

At 8 o'clock there was a live band, **KAZHA** (pronounced Kazuha as it's the singer's name), who performed in Europe for the first time that night! There were some issues with the microphone at first, but they took it really well and the band just kept playing the intro until the singer could start her performance too. When she did, real magic started to happen as everyone in the room was immediately enchanted by the groove these musicians brought us. Melodic rock, hard rock and ballad rock make a very good combination to end a good day, and KAZHA definitely pulled it off perfectly.

Review and photography by Marjan Van Esbroeck.

Ball Jointed Dolls on display.

Dance Dance Revolution-eske gaming.

Convention visitors gathered in one of the rooms.

KAZHA.

Pokémon cosplayers.

Event: Manga & Cosplay Weekend
When: September 8 & 9
Where: Japanese Garden
Hasselt, Belgium
Ticket price: free for cosplayers
€ 5 for others
Website: http://www.hasselt.be/nl/content/3742/japanse-tuin.html

2012 marks the year of the 20th anniversary of the Japanese garden in Hasselt. To celebrate this anniversary, they held different kind of events like *hana-matsuri* (cherry blossom viewing) and a bonsai exposition. With manga, anime and cosplay rapidly booming in Belgium this couldn't be left out. So on the 8th and 9th of September, the first **Manga & Cosplay Weekend** in Hasselt, Limburg took place.

I was very curious to see what kind of **things they had waiting for us**. Cosplayers were free to enter, the rest paid € 5. At the entrance we got a leaflet stating the times of the different workshops that took place. Every stand had its own number, which we could find back on the backside of the paper on a map. Or so it should be because when turned around it was just a white page so you still needed to search the different stands yourself.

We got **very lucky with the weather** as we got the last day of summer. Very lucky, because the Japanese garden wasn't covered. If the weather had been awful, like the Belgian weather sometimes tends to be, there wasn't enough room to escape to. On the other side, this convention being held in the Japanese garden was a huge advantage too. It's not only gorgeous but also the biggest Japanese garden in Europe. When tired of listening to taiko or workshops you could take a stroll in the garden, away from the crowd and the burning sun. It's also a perfect place for a photo shoot.

I can't say much about the **cosplay contest** as I haven't seen another one to compare with before. Although I can say it was a good host and the one contestant was a bit more interesting than the other one.

For **snacks**, beside little boxes of sushi, bubble tea, the regular drinks, rice crackers and waffles there wasn't any other food provided. Because of this, afterwards we went to the Japanese restaurant Ebisu in Hasselt. And much unexpectedly, there weren't other cosplay/Lolita/convention goers there. This probably due to the location of the Japanese garden being outside of Hasselt center. What better to end a convention than with tasty Japanese food?

It was a very lovely day and if they work on their work stations *this could be a very lovely yearly convention!* Let us hope it returns next year (with the same beautiful weather)!

Review by Valerie Vliegen. Photography by Joachim Bodson.

The september meet of the
BELGIAN CUPCAKES Lolita fashion
group. We'll miss you while you're
in Japan AGNES!

SEPTEMBER LOLITA FASHION MEET

Visiting Brussels for photos
and fun.
Also Agnes' last meet before
she goes to Japan for a year.

Sunday, September 9 2012

Event: Attack of the Oni
When: September 15
What: gaming afternoon
Where: City Park
Antwerp, Belgium
Ticket price: free event
Website: www.nipponzasshi.be

On Saturday 15 September 2012, the Nippon Zasshi crew held a public event at the City Park in Antwerp, called "**Attack of the Oni**.". It was a modified version of the game "*Werewolves*", where a circle of "villagers" sit around a narrator who is also the game master. All villagers receive a card with their role on it, which they can then play out during the "nights" when all other characters are asleep.

The basic premise of the game is that there are Villagers and Werewolves. The Villagers' goal is to survive and find all the Werewolves and eliminate them. The Werewolves in turn should try to "kill" all villagers, one per night.

Of course, Nippon Zasshi wouldn't host this game without modifying it to fit a Japanese theme. Because of the rather large turnup of cosplayers, the Villagers woke up in *Harajuku* (a famous fashion district in Tokyo) and would be attacked by *Oni*, the Japanese demons.

A variety of other characters were added to make the whole game more interesting, such as characters with special powers, special abilities and perhaps the most amicable character of them all: Cupid. This person points out two random people, who are then "lovers" and should prevent each other's demise. For if one dies, so does the other. They are totally random and Cupid does not know their identity, they could be Villagers, or Werewolves. So this can (and does) get quite complicated. And this was just one character explained.

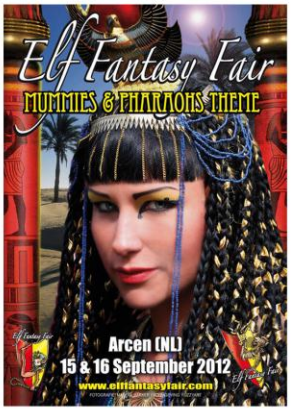
We played a total of 4 games with one group and 3 with the second group, built from the "victims" of the first game which was played with all guests of the event.

Though it was very chaotic, the Nippon Zasshi crew worked together to keep everyone in line. After all, keeping 40 teenagers under control is not an easy task, and took every crew member's energy and authority. All in all it went very smoothly and both guests and hosts had a very good day out in the park.

Review and photo by Marjan Van Esbroeck.

werewolves with a japanese twist

Event: Elf Fantasy Fair Arcen
Mummies and Pharaohs
When: September 15 & 16
What: Fantasy, sci-fi, costuming event
Where: Castle gardens of Arcen castle
Arcen, The Netherlands
Ticket price: varies, cheaper the sooner you buy them.
Website: http://arcen.elffantasyfair.com



For the 4th year **Elf Fantasy Fair** held its second edition of the year (the first one is always in Haarzuilens) in Arcen, the Netherlands. Just like every year the beautiful grounds of Arcen Castle proved to be filled with not only things to do but a plethora of things to see. Not only the grounds themselves are beautiful to walk around in, there's the many shops, events organised by the fair that people can participate it but also the vast majority of the guest dressed up in often elaborate and fantastic costumes ranging from sci-fi, cosplay to steampunk to the Orient.

Whilst I didn't see many Lolitas (kudos to one of our own Cupcakes for representing the fashion at the fair!) around, I did see plenty of **Japanese bits and pieces** at shops and in the fair itself. First of all there is an oriental part to the gardens, which is always beautiful to see and walk through. Aside from that there are the Oriental Spheres and the Japanese Square. The lectures given there were really quite interesting and the people responsible for the area made sure to be informative and bring plenty of awesome things to see such as samurai armour and assorted.

This year's theme was **Mummies & Farao's**, to go further on the Egyptian theme already set that year and of course EFF organised several on theme events and those dressed up following the theme did so with truly wonderful costumes.

The organisation is also fantastic, there are plenty of easily recognisable staff around happy to help your questions in a friendly and professional way, they do the effort of making this a proper all ages event and offer so many different things that everyone attending can find something to keep them happily occupied for an entire day, which is very rare at events these days. They also do a great job in putting up info points where you can find little map & program flyers in case you need them which are manned at all times and which I find a definite help for guests. The extend of getting everything organised to such details (even the parking) definitely helps improve the experience for guests as you don't have to worry about getting lost on the grounds and failing to find proper information. The **food and drink** are also pretty diverse and generally reasonably priced, making for a nice change with most conventions and events. I just think they could do with putting up some extra areas for people to sit and eat, but that's definitely not something that would put me off from going again.

"I'D DEFINITELY ATTEND EFF AGAIN!"

And even the things not on the program get organised rather quickly amongst friends as there's always room for doing your very own thing, with always a kind fellow fair goer to chip in to make things work, making EFF one of the best events to be at in the year for sure!

Event: Paris Manga & Sci-fi Show
When: September 15 & 16
What: J-culture and Sciencefiction convention
Where: Expo Porte de Versailles, Hall 2.1
Paris, France
Ticket price: €10
Website: http://www.parismanga.fr

Whilst in Europe Manga, J-culture and Sci-fi conventions are a-plenty and pretty well represented in all the bigger (and some of the smaller too) countries, I have to say that the French are pretty undisputed when it comes to putting conventions together.

Throwing Manga and Sci-fi into one big mix may seem quite strange, but they pulled it off seemingly effortlessly, mixing both in the hall of Porte de Versailles convention centre where the event was held. I wouldn't say that the venue was extremely large, I'm inclined to think that bringing it purely down to space it was actually smaller than some of the Belgian cons, but they used the room they had so well that they managed to fit so much into it that it was **a true feast for the eyes**. Whilst maneuvering around in the crowds was sometimes difficult due to the high attendance rate, you could still manage easily and most people there were super friendly and considerate of others, which made getting through the crowds a far nicer experience. What is also worth mentioning is that it was very easy to leave the con and come back inside thanks to the stamp system (UV, so you're not stuck with a clearly visible event stamp on your arm or hand days later) and that outside there was plenty of room to hang out or eat something.

Resting spots and food were also abundant inside the convention and the offer was very well varied: from normal foods to oriental dishes, ice cream and bubble tea to normal drinks. I didn't look at the prices but judging from the amount of people sitting down with a bento box or walking around with bubble tea they must have been reasonable.

The shops were slightly more varied than the ones you see on Belgian conventions as well and they did a great job on inviting guests and organising their events. They had several big maps up to help you navigate and if you still needed help you could easily address a friendly member of staff to help you out.

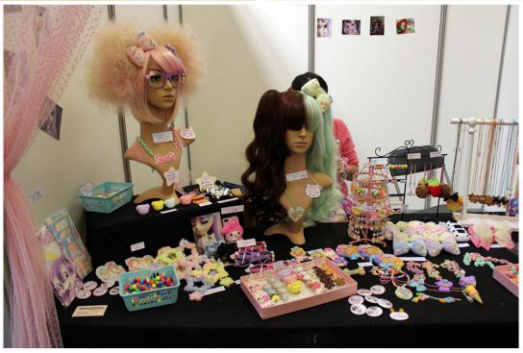
Another great point to the convention was how they organised events that come with quite a bit of volume such as showcases and assorted. The stages were not only at the far end of the venue out in the open, and pretty much next to each other, but they still managed to set up for maximum comfort (and set-up/clear up specifically tailored to the event at hand in a manner of moments without bothering anyone) but if you weren't specifically near them, you weren't bothered by them in the slightest. That was absolutely fantastic because there is nothing as annoying as having to shout the entire convention just to be heard by the friend next to you as something going on is being loud throughout the entire convention, some Belgian conventions (like FACTS) can definitely take a leaf out of Paris Manga's book on that one with their all over shadowing overly loud cosplay competitions.

Whilst the convention name suggests it is focussed on just manga and sci-fi that's also not the end of it, it was a veritable cross pollination between science fiction and J-culture in all its aspects. And yes, it was clear that the J-culture fans were in the majority but that bothered no one as people got along perfectly fine. It was definitely a very friendly and open-minded convention that catered well to all ages. If I happen to be in Paris when it's happening, I'd definitely attend again.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert.

INORAN and u:zo during INORAN's showcase concert at the convention. It was the last concert of INORAN's Seven Samurais European tour.

"THE VARIETY OF THINGS GOING ON AT THE CONVENTION WAS PRETTY AMAZING!"



Event: Anno 1900
Steampunk and Gaslight
Convention Luxembourg
When: September 29 and 30
What: Steampunk convention,
part of EuroSteamCon
Where: Fond du Grass
Niederkorn, Luxembourg
Ticket price: n/a it's a free convention
Website: http://anno-1900.com

On September 29. and 30 the second edition of the Steampunk and Gaslight Convention "Anno 1900" took place in Fond-de-Gras, Luxembourg, which is an industrial museum with a working steam train, so perfectly suitable for all the Steampunks gathering together.

Opening times were from 11 – 19 on Saturday and from 11 – 18 on Sunday. There was no entrance fee, only if you wanted to take a ride with the steam train you had to buy a ticket. Since the last weekend of September is traditionally also the last day of the year where the steam train is activated a lot of families with their children showed up at the museum and were amazed by all the Steampunks strolling around the area.

Located at an old industry hall and around were a lot of Steampunk themed vendors, selling everything from jewelry over clothing to gadgets. You can stroll over the market and the area with the old machines and the Steampunk expedition camp (which I was part of) and discover new bits and pieces everywhere!

Besides the market there was also a program of course. Artists like *Akasha Tribe Belly Dance*, *Marion Andree Circus Art*, *Salome's Sisters* and the *Pompiers on Fire* who did juggling with fire, performed on stage as well as the Steampunk bands *Victor Sierra* and *Drachenflug*.

You could participate at one of Horatius Steam's workshops and learn how to build a LED lamp out of a light bulb or get a portrait of yourself made by an old photographic method (which takes some time).

On Sunday there was also a costume competition, where the participants and winners were chosen by a jury (which seemed a bit unorganized in fact) which was surely not easy because a lot of visitors came in their best Steampunk attire so you could just sit down somewhere and watch them for hours!

I personally really like the event because so many different people from all over Europe gather together enjoying their hobby. You get the chance to talk to nearly everybody and the program is amazing, remembering you don't have to pay for it!
So see you there next year!

Review by AyraLeona.
Photography by AyraLeona and Vala.

EVENT REVIEW: Disneyland Paris' Halloween season

October 1 - November 4 2012

After a frankly disappointing *Halloween* season in 2011, which was more *Hallowasn't* than Halloween, *Disneyland Paris* makes a return to its old tricks and treats this autumn with 90% new decorations. The old Pumpkin people, orange footprints and paint splatter and the occasional goblin on *Main Street USA* have been replaced by merry ghosts reminiscent of the ones in the old Disney cartoon "*Lonesome Ghosts*" from 1937. This alongside fall flowers, pumpkins and often comical Jack o' Lanterns. Whilst all of this turned the Halloween season in a more light-hearted affair than the previous years, they still maintained the spirit of the season. A very nice touch especially is the fact that they have ghosts specific to the building they were on or in front.

Barbershop ghosts on one of the Main Street USA buildings.

Central Plaza also sees new decorations, with more and new character Jack o' Lanterns depicting *Donald*, *Goofy*, *Minnie* and *Mickey*, as well as actual pumpkins, pumpkin statues and the famous mouse eared pumpkins.

Central Plaza.

One of the many Halloween bands.

Traditionally *Frontierland* has been dressed up as well, but to a far lesser extent than in its *Halloweenland* days. And just like Main Street it has become far more polished. Frankly Disneyland Paris has started to follow suit of the US Parks, which is rather sad in a way as it was fantastic that DLP was an individual park in its own right with its very own special characters (who have all sadly disappeared over the years), an individuality which has been erased over the past years into American conformism, leaving all the Western parks very similar and only the Asian parks of Tokyo and Hong Kong left to a slightly creepier, spookier Halloween where the Jack o' Lanterns still put the frightful fun in the season, rather than just being conservatively cute.

Pumpkin people in Frontierland.

Shows and meet and greet wise things have been slightly cut back as well, with the *Villains Mix and Mingle* on the castle courtyard in *Fantasyland*, *Trick or Treat in the Street* on the Fantasyland castle stage (which is an adorably interactive kid's show) and only Goofy and Jack Skellington (and sometimes Sally as well) as seasonal meet & greet characters. A nice touch are the Halloween musicians this year.

Trick or Treat in the street, the interactive kid's show.

In short, if you were especially appealed to the Halloween season at the French park because of its cool and refreshingly fun take on the holiday, you may find this a bit bland, especially if you've been there in the Halloweenland heydays. If you just want to go for the spirit of the season and good old fashion theme park fun then I'd very much recommend it.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert.

Event: FACTS
When: October 20 & 21
What: comics, sci-fi and anime festival
Where: Flanders Expo, hall 3
Ghent, Belgium
Ticket price: € 8 - 12, depending on the kind of ticket formula you choose.
Website: http://www.facts.be

FACTS 2012, we all looked forward to it, hoping it would be as good as the website led us to believe. The convention has its reputation, so we were very curious as to how they would put everything together for this edition.

First thing I noticed on Saturday was the usage of the two separate halls, one for the gamers and one for cultural items. The gamer hall was spacious, well organised and hosted the Cosplay competition and dressing rooms, as well as game-related photo stands. One of them being the famous Iron Throne from *Game of Thrones*, upon which many a fan had placed themselves to have their photo taken.

Also inside the gamer hall was a small picnic area with a few tables and benches, so one could take a pit stop before moving on to the dealer room. Once inside, I was greeted by the hustle and bustle of what F.A.C.T.S. has become known for: Japanese pop culture and comic merchants.

Further in were Japanese culture workshops (such as martial arts and go games), and all the way in the back of the room were the celebrity photo-and-signing tables.

Of course, this room was packed with people browsing, cosplayers posing for cameras and general busybodies trying to get that one special item they've been wanting for so long. It was at times hard to get to where I wanted to go, perhaps more so than previous years. Also, there was a much wider variety in merchandise, with many stands selling home-made goods, many comic stands, sci-fi stands and even some horror items.

The one thing I appreciated most, though, was the cafeteria just outside the dealer room. They sold soft drinks, warm food and even desserts, and had quite a bit of room to sit at a table and just relax for a while.

Review and photo by Marjan Van Esbroeck.

FACTS is one of those conventions that for the longest time just offered the same thing over and over again. The one year was better than the other but generally speaking it may have been one of the biggest Belgian cons, it was far from the best. Not this year though, this year FACTS got their act together. Whether this is because of the ever growing competition from new cons such as Japan Expo Belgium (happening a mere few weeks after FACTS) or Antwerp Convention I'm leaving up for debate, fact of the matter (pun intended) is that FACTS this year buckled up and presented a fun, well organised and far more original program than it has in years. **Bravo FACTS!**

First of all there was the addition of a whole new section: **Little Japan**. No doubt every J-culture fan rejoiced at least a little at the taiko drums, martial arts showcases, Japanese lessons for beginners, bonsais and as a convention closer: the awesome concert by Japanese Electro Rock group **Galaxy 7** (you can also read a review of that concert and an interview with them in this edition).

Everything seemed far better divided this time 'round, with clear maps provided at the information stand just at the main entrance. The **artist alley** was full of awesome young designers of all trades offering their wares, which were awesomely varied. And as for the traditional merchants, for the first in many years you could again see rare merch at reasonable prices and a great variety of things to buy which was a lovely surprise. I had gone there expecting to find the current hype on sale at nearly every stand but was instead treated to obscure fandoms and a range wide enough to make pretty much every geek present happy.

Of course there were some things present that are there every year such as the **cosplay competition** (which wasn't blearingly loud, a definite plus!), the **video games**, **wargame painters** and **Star Wars groups**. But those never get old and lot of people truly enjoy them. They were topped this time with special photo opportunity locations such as the Barbie display box and the Iron Throne (from Game of Thrones), which many happily took advantage of.

Even when it came to **food and drink** FACTS was pretty well organised this year: there was a nice and reasonably priced variety of both available at several concession stands. My only regret is that the seating was so limited, the convention could really do with setting up a far larger area for people to be able to eat and drink in peace and quiet, unpack and go over the things they've just bought or just sit and rest for a bit. And yes, there is ground, but let's face it, that's not always the cleanest option and many people rather not get their outfits/costumes dirty. So please FACTS: more seating space next year!

Review and photo by Hilde Heyvaert.

This year's FACTS in PROS AND CONS

By Bert Van den Wyngaert

On the plus side:

* Enough room to move. Granted it could get crowded in the passageways but they were at least wide enough. And the ones at the far end were really rather easy to get through. You could even stop and talk to friends for a bit comfortably in those.

* Variation of events: there was a lot to do this year, ranging from concerts to video games to photo opps and shopping.

* A wide offer of merchandise. Rather than the same thing at practically every single stand you now had an actual range in the offer.

* Reasonably priced and well varied food and drink.

* Things were far better organised and divided than previous years and people really enjoyed Little Japan.

On the down side:

* Dirty toilets they make you pay 50 cents to use. Dirty loos are disgusting as is, but making people pay to use them is just pretty unacceptable. You should always make sure the toilets are clean but if they are a paid for service the lack of cleanliness is just inexcuseable.

* Far too little room to just sit down for a bit. It would be a vast improvement if the dining area were expanded and a reasonably sized area was added where people could just sit down and rest for a bit, enjoy a bite to eat and/or a drink or even just sit and play with the things they've just bought or check over their shopping haul. Actually an addition of a game area where you just put up tables and benches where people can play card or board games wouldn't go amiss.

* The lighting inside is still horrible for photos.

Galaxy 7

FACTS - Ghent - Belgium
Sunday, October 21 2012

On Sunday 21 October 2012, Galaxy 7 performed live at the Belgian convention FACTS, leaving a more than positive impression with those who'd never seen them live before, or even heard of them before.

Daisuke Tsutsui and *Taiki Matsuura* joined musical forces to give us Belgians a demonstration of what two seemingly isolated talents can do together. Drummer Taiki had a few issues with the equipment during the first two songs, but once those were solved, a true electronic rock bomb exploded into our ears.

Though both men remained more or less static during the concert, this didn't bother any of the spectators at all. As the fans put their energy into banging their heads and clapping, eventually Daisuke got ignited by it as well and a few ad-lib dance moves sneaked into his performance. One thing he didn't lack throughout the show was a wide smile, it's wonderful to see musicians enjoy what they do and having as good a time as the people watching them.

Afterwards, an assortment of merchandise was displayed next to the stage and both Daisuke and Taiki signed any and all merchandise, dedicated to the fan presenting it. All in all, yet another wonderful aspect to the convention!

Review and photo by Marjan Van Esbroeck.

PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS OF FACTS: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21.

EVENT PHOTO REPORT:

HALLOWEEN J-FASHION WALK
Saturday, October 26 - BRUSSELS, Belgium

Pink Blackbird

--Website Coming Soon --

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J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews.

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Bert Van den Wyngaert & Marjan Van Esbroeck and Ophelia of J-Rock Belgium.

BUCK-TICK
"Yume Miru Uchuu "
Album
Release date: 19.09.2012

BUCK-TICK returns with yet another strong album. Where *Razzle Dazzle*, the predecessor to *Yume Miru Uchuu* was a strong straight rock album, they are slowly returning to the slightly more avant-garde feel of their 2009 release *Memento Mori* with this one. Adding tinges of other genres to this particular album BUCK-TICK is obviously experimenting a lot more on the new release, even going as far as adding Big Band elements alongside some Jazz and electro. I can see how this album is more difficult than Razzle Dazzle and even Memento Mori, but it's definitely easier to get into than *Tenshi no Revolver* (to stick to the last four releases by B-T) and whilst it may take several listenings, it really is another great CD, just as we come to expect from this band.

Dolly
"Traumerei"
Album
Release date: 10.10.2012

More of what we're used to from Dolly, if perhaps a bit heavier than their previous albums. It's still what I would describe as "ambient rock", having electronic intros that make it sound like it's going to be goa music, or Drum 'n Bass. But then of course, they throw guitars,bass and good vocals into the mix and the relaxation isn't all you're feeling any more. You want to bang your head, or at least tap your finger or foot to the rhythm. The song titles themselves create an atmosphere of their own. *Paradise Lost* opens the album with bird sounds, like they weren't quite ready to leave summer behind just yet, even though it is October already. The whole song sounds rather summery, without vocals, so we are eased into the rest of the album. Four songs in, and the heavy undertone starts trickling into your ears, without becoming actual hard rock, and if your finger is tapping along by now, I wouldn't worry. It's not going to tap out of the room just yet, but expect it to tap harder from now on, and let your foot join in if it wants to. I feel the softness of this album adds to the October feeling. Like you still want a bit of Summer in your ears before it's going to actually freeze, you know?

The GazettE
"DIVISION"
CD (European release)
Release date: 01.10.2012

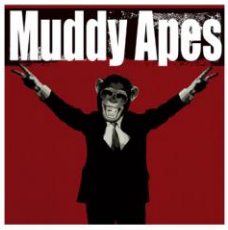
Thanks to London based record company *JPU Records* fans of The GazettE can now get their latest release, DIVISION, in Europe either via amazon or if they're lucky in a record store near them. Which is of course awesome. Now onto DIVISION itself: there are some very strong songs on there. I really like that The GazettE experiments by adding elements of different styles and electronics to their music, they are clearly pushing at their own boundaries and I really appreciate that. I don't think this experimentation is always successful, but I do appreciate them pushing at the limits of their own style and skill. Aside from the some-times over the top experimentation Division is an accomplished album within the band's particular style that is sure to be well received and very much enjoyed by most fans of either the band or the genre.

Glam Grammar
"Musoushoku - Release o Individuality"
Single
Release date: 19.09.2012

This is Glam Grammar's first single, and after a first listen, my conclusion has to be that these guys have potential. They incorporate different kinds of rock, including hard rock elements with a dash of electronic Nintendo-like beats and noises. This sounds like someone put *SuG*, *DOG in the PWO* and a little bit of *Miyavi* in a blender and poured the result onto a disk. The songs are longer than usual, averaging at 4.30 minutes. This is what created the opportunity for the band members to put as much of their respective talents in this first release as possible. The music itself could perhaps be slightly better mixed, but overall it's a very nice start for Glam Grammar! There is a lot of emphasis on what's going on in the music and vocal lines, more so than the lyrics themselves. With every loop of these 3 songs, I keep hearing new melodies hidden within the main bass, guitar and drum lines.

MEJIBRAY
"Emily"
Single
Release date: 05.10.2012

The title track is a ballad, a symphonic lovesong. Something we're not quite used to from MEJIBRAY. It's very delicate and shows a lot of fragile pain, rather than the angry fury pain we know MEJIBRAY for. It's a beautiful diversion and we're shown that they are not all roughness, toughness and growls that seem to come from the Earth's core. This is them being completely vulnerable in a song that brings about a balance between regret and strength. Of course, after a carefully whispered "Emily, because I love you.", they return to giving us what we expect to hear from them. The 2nd track *Thinker* breaks out into grunts, screams, growls and good old metal riffs. This is MEJIBRAY as we know and love them. But Thinker is only a warm-up for the 3rd and final track: *Apocalypse*, with which they explode into the darkest metal we've heard from them so far. No more melodic vocals, this is purely made of sounds you'd expect from the pits of hell. I'd say they found a beautiful nuance here in wanting to show their second dimension as well as give the fans what they expect, and then some. It's almost like they went "ok, guys, we needed to write a lovesong, so here it is. Don't worry though, we wrote some more heavy/ death metal too."



Muddy Apes
"Crush It"
Album
Release date: 04.10.2012

International all-star band (with members of Feeder, LUNA SEA, and 8otto) Muddy Apes is here to regale us with their first EP and boy, what an amazing EP it is! Fans of INORAN will no doubt recognise the style from his last album *Dive Youth, Sonic dive* but aside from that the Muddy Apes are very much their own band owning their own particular style of hard hitting rock music true to the name. For me personally I think that this album comes close to seeing INORAN himself live, that same feeling of heart hitting music that touches your soul, because this music has soul, it has heart, it is the embodiment of everything that rock music should be. You can't just hear the incredible skill of the individual members but also just how much fun they had putting this album together and their love for music. *Crush It* is an absolute _must_ have for everyone that calls themself a fan of rock music.

LIN/ LIN -the end of corruption world-
"AWAKING from -Independent MAZE"
Album
Release Date: 05.09.2012

LIN's latest starts out like you'd expect an album by *Dream Theater* would, if they were Japanese. Its first track, *Cold Sabbat*, is very dramatic, melodic and symphonic. It almost sounds *Moi-dix-Mois*-ish, minus the depressive undertone and it has more metal grunting and screaming. This trend is continued throughout the album, with a more melodic vocal line coming through every once in a while. Though the voice is still overpowered by the bombastic music, even when it's just an organ playing. This creates a deserted atmosphere to the music, and fits the general theme of *MAZE*; getting lost, feeling abandoned and finding strength to overcome these issues. There appears to be a lot more emphasis on the bass line than in previous albums, which makes the whole story more dramatic and slightly overwhelming at times.

Kazha

Abunai - Veldhoven - The Netherlands
Saturday, August 25 2012

On Saturday, 25 August, I went to see the band Kazha (pronounced Kazuha) at the convention *Abunai* in the Netherlands. I hadn't heard about them before,but they've only toured Japan & America so far. This was their first performance in Europe.

The day before the concert I had a chance to see the band members, with the exception of the bassist. They were selling their merchandise and would sign the CD if asked. All of the members were sweet people and made some small talk. I was surprised by the fact that all of them spoke English quite well, but after I got home I learned that most of them either grew up in America or live there now.

The evening of the concert there were more people than I expected since Kazha is not a well known band. When we got to enter the performance room we had to wait yet an other half hour, and when the band finally got on stage there were problems with the microphone. The rest of the band kept playing while vocalist Kazuha tried to make the best out of it until the equipment worked.

Kazuha had no problem to get the crowd going. The biggest part of the crowd participated and kept cheering. That was until a tear-jerking song started. "*UNMEI ~運命~*" was a song written for the band's Japanese friends who had lost their lives during the Tohoku disaster on 11 March 2011.

A little later Rod, the drummer for this tour, got a solo. He got the crowd going and every one was even more excited when the rest came back on stage. Kazuha talked to the crowd and said that they had been searching for a popular Dutch song to cover but that they couldn't find one. So they chose to cover *"Don't stop believing"* by *Journey*, to the crowd's great pleasure I might add.
They pulled 7 people on stage to dance with them. It was fun to watch the energy coming from both the band and the audience.

Before the other members got their solo, Kazuha talked to us about the pronun-ciation of the band name. *"It's not Kazha or Kazja, but Kazuha! It was taken from my name. Let's say it all together!*
KA ZU HA, KA ZU HA!"
The bands name was screamed a couple of times before they moved on and bassist Zen got his solo.

Right before the encore Kazuha said that they wanted to come back to Europe to do a tour. If they come back, I would really recommend to go. Kazha is a great band with an amazing energy, and they love to interact with their fans.

Official site: http://www.kazuhaoda.com

Review & Photography by Ophelia.

INORAN

Seven Samurais European Tour 2012
MTC – Cologne – Germany
Wednesday, September 5 2012

If you love INORAN's CDs, you'll LOVE him live. There's just no comparison. His stage presence is amazing, his voice sounds so much better as if it's made for stage performances and he's surrounded by so much talent that they can get even the most stoic person rocking out to their songs. These guys live for the music and it shows. He rocked the house easily, and you could see row upon row of people dancing and head banging along to the music. His setlist was composed of kick-ass rock songs, from both his latest release *Dive youth, Sonic dive* as well as older works. It was like he strung together all his best, hardest songs to add to the already excellent atmosphere and ambience in the MTC Club. Even the duet *No Options* that is sung with *Anna Tsuchiya* on the album, not only survived being sung without her but stood firm like a skyscraper. After having played 11 songs, they came back out for three more, closing the concert with a cover of *LUNA SEA*'s Tonight, no doubt as a musical gift to the many fans of LUNA SEA in the audience, who were easily spotted because of their tour t-shirts. And to be perfectly honest I liked INORAN's cover better than the original. Prior to the tour INORAN had promised his fans he'd set the house on fire, and he made more than good on that particular promise!

SETLIST
1.Smoke
2.SuperTramp
3.No Name
4.Selfless
5.No Options
6.A sort of jam performed by u:zo, RYO and YUKIO without INORAN. If you ever wondered how talented these guys are, you'll get that answer seeing this. Very talented doesn't begin to cover it.
7.Nasty
8.Rightaway
9.Hide and Seek
10. Shike
11. Grace and Glory

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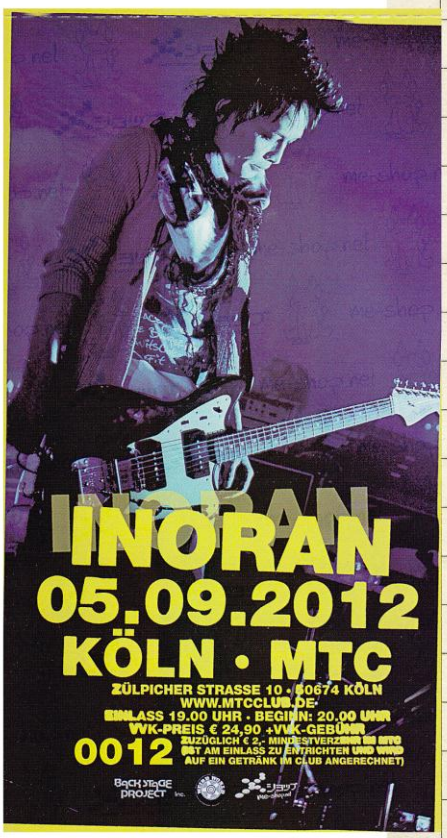
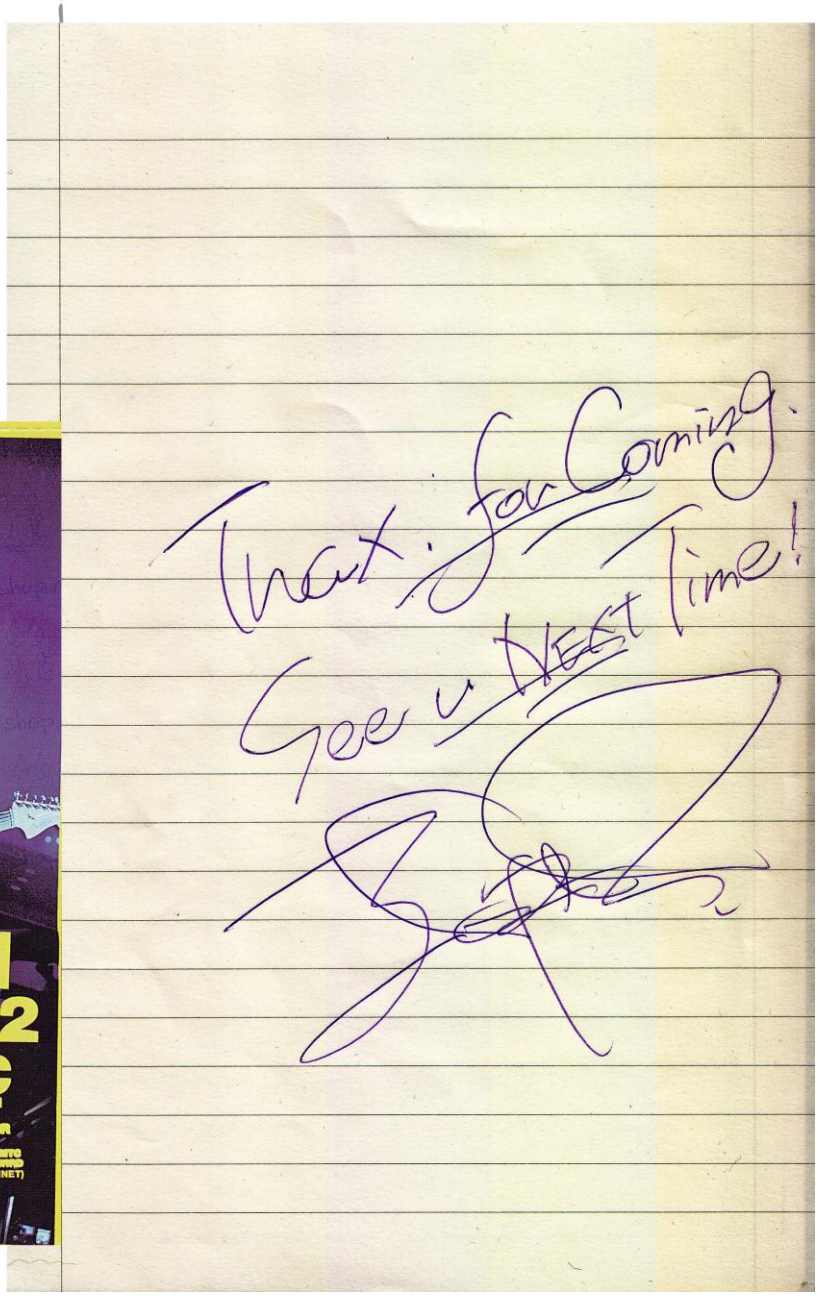
12. One Big Blue
13. Get Laid
14. Tonight



Meeting INORAN himself

I always love being chief editor and part of BCM, but I swear that that day I loved it a little more. Everyone loves meeting their favourite artists, and I feel so grateful and truly blessed that I have repeatedly found myself in the opportunity to do so in my life (not just via BCM but also via other magazines I have written for or still write for).
And to meet someone I've been fan of since I was a teenager was pretty awesome. And yes, everything they say about the man IS true: he really is that kind, warm and friendly. He was on such a hectic schedule and still made time to meet and greet with the fans, sign whatever they wanted and pose for photos and even make a little small talk in as far as time permitted. And even after performing on stage he still made time for the media groups present for interviews. And to write a message for the readers of BCM in my notebook, of which you can see the scan right here on this page.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Setlist compiled with kind help of Ana Fernandez.
Special thanks to INORAN, Paul Chu and Franczeska Steffen.
Apologies for the lack of live photos with this report but the venue lighting sadly thwarted us.



We met up with INORAN in Cologne, Germany, one of the stops of his SEVEN SAMURAIS European tour for part two of our interview series with him. Whilst for BCM # 8 we had interviewed him over email, this time we had the chance to meet him face to face. And yes, all the rumours are true, he really is a wonderful and warm person and we are very grateful that we got to interview him shortly after his amazing concert.

Let's start on a positive note: this is the day of the 3rd concert of the SEVEN SAMURAIS TOUR, what's the best thing that's happened to you on this tour so far?
I can't really choose a particular thing because I'm just so happy that I get to do this European tour. Because of that feeling, everything is special to me and I can't make a choice at all.

Days of concerts are notorious for being hectic and long with what feels like a million different things that need to be done. Could you describe how a concert day generally progresses for you as an artist?
I'm a happy guy, so no matter how hectic it gets, I don't feel any pressure at all.

You need a lot of equipment to perform, aside from your instruments. In how far did you manage to bring your own on this tour and what are you relying on to be present at each venue?
I've only brought one pedal along with me and we've even had to fly in my guitar from Japan. We lost a piece of luggage: my guitar, which is why today I played a Stratocaster. *(Editorial note: INORAN's custom shop Fender Jazzmaster was lost at the airport in Vienna, and he performed the shows in Vienna and Cologne with a Fender Stratocaster he borrowed off a friend. Thankfully his own guitar was returned to him in time for the Hamburg show. Things like this can all happen during a tour.)*

Does customs ever give you grief over all the equipment and merchandise you travel with whilst on an international tour?
Smiles No, there haven't been any problems with them, because there isn't really that much luggage, it's almost just like bringing along myself only.

Have you noticed any cultural differences between the Japanese and European audiences from your point of view?
I find that the European audiences are more direct and straight forward than the Japanese.

Do you find yourself craving certain dishes, drinks or snacks from home whilst on the road abroad? Or do you see this as an opportunity to try as many local things as possible?
I try to eat as much of what's available of the local specialities.

What's your favourite European dish you've had so far?
I really liked the sausage: the Brätwurst. And the German beer.

You've got Belgian beer and chocolate now too.
Smiles yes, I like those as well.

There's only a few days in between lives during this tour and a lot of time goes to travelling as well, do you get any time off for sight-seeing and relaxing?
I'm never alone on this tour *laughs and pats his tour promoter Paul's shoulder, who also laughs*. At this point, I don't have any free time.
Paul: Yeah, right now the schedule is too tight to do anything extra.
Inoran: I'd like to see the cathedral of Cologne though, I hope that I will get to do that.

You're very active on social media such as your blog, twitter and facebook. Do you think social media are necessary to spread your music globally and stay in touch with your fans?
I think it's very important, especially to keep in touch with the fans. I think that most of the fans here today probably are here because of my posts on twitter and facebook. It's a great way to keep in touch and communicate with them. I'd like to communicate more over social media in the future.

Official site: http://inoran.org

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert.
Japanese translation by Esther Huang and Franczeska Steffen.
Photograph by Hilde Heyvaert, taken at the Paris concert.
Special thanks to INORAN and Paul Chu.

INORAN

Seven Samurais European Tour 2012
Paris Manga & Sci-fi Show - Paris - France
Sunday, September 16 2012

First of all I would like to thank Bishi-Bishi and Backstage Project for doing an amazing job organising this concert. Where Cologne was, to no fault of Backstage Project I add, a bit of a dive venue wise (the concert, as you can also read in this edition, was awesome), this was really well done. Whilst the stage was part of the open convention hall (rather than a separate room or hall) they managed to make sure that no surrounding events bothered the concert sound in any way. There was a safety area for press (who were all sitting down as to not bug the fans behind them) and the light was amazing so we could, contrary to Cologne, actually take concert photos! Huzzah!

This last concert of the Seven Samurais European tour actually topped the one I saw in Cologne. The fans were awesome, the band was truly epic, and whilst it was announced that it was a showcase rather than a full length concert they still played 13 songs so only one less than at another performance on this tour. People that went there just for the band definitely were getting their monies worth and then some.

The energy on stage was infectious and as always, INORAN, u:zo, RYO and YUKIO owned the stage easily. The setlist was once again a nice and well put-together mix between songs from the latest album, Sonic dive, Dive youth and older works of INORAN. He played mostly the same songs as at other gigs of the Seven Samurais tour (which is logical seeing the limited amount of equipment they were able to bring along) and they really came alive on the Paris stage. The band's energy was also truly amazing and I enjoyed every second of it. And judging from the amount of cheering and headbanging in the crowd: so did everyone else attending. LUNA SEA fans could also eat their heart out with the brilliant cover of Tonight, which is still better than the original version when performed by INORAN.

INORAN proved once more that his music is made for the stage and he's born to perform it, bringing his songs, both older and new to life in a seemingly effortless and virtuoso way.

Review & Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.
Special thanks to INORAN, Paul Chu and Xavier Norindr.

YUKIO MURATA has just toured with INORAN as support guitarist, but he's also the frontman of his own awesome Noise Rock band MY WAY MY LOVE.
And it's about that band that BCM spoke to him via email to find out a little more about the band and future plans.

By way of introduction, could you say something nice about each member of your band?
Shozo is the Drum man, he has a big passion and lot of ambition for the world of Rock and Roll music. Katsuya is the Bass man, he always brings small joys to the band.

You've just been in Europe with *INORAN* on his *Seven Samurais* tour, are there any plans to tour Europe again with MY WAY MY LOVE?
Currently, no...

What's your favourite thing about Europe so far?
The nice beers and wine *laughs*.

You're often compared to bands like *Sonic Youth*, but are you actually inspired by that band?
Yes, I love Sonic Youth, but I have a lot of favourite bands and artists from all over the world: *Flaming Lips*, *My Bloody Valentine*, *David Bowie* and *Beck* to name but a few.

These days more and more things are computer programmed to the point where you now have fully computerized instruments that run on an operating system and don't even use strings anymore. How do you feel about advancements in guitar technology like that, being a guitarist yourself?
I'm interested in evolution. I don't hate computer programmed things. The most important things for me are my values: a balance of totality like a fusion of "new" and "old", "digital" and "analog","00" and " 01 " or "1oo" and "computer" versus "human". It's about the balance of the "combination".

Being a noise rock group you use a lot of effects, what's your favourite one?
Hot Hand / WAH, SA 101W (SOURCE AUDIO)

What is the ultimate amp, guitar and pedal combo in your opinion?
It's not the ultimate but I love the combination of a Fender Jazzmaster guitar, Big muff and Rocaforte guitar amp.

I've seen you use a drumstick on your guitar, are there other things you use like that as well to create sound effects on the guitar?
That one is just a sound effect, like a Bottleneck slide guitar.

What's the strangest thing that ever happened to you at a concert?
Life is strange for me so it's always strange, all the time. Live concerts are thus in itself always a strange thing.

Do you have a message for your fans in Belgium and the rest of Europe?
Yeah, MY WAY MY LOVE loves to do European tours so we hope to go back to Europe as soon as possible with a new album. When we come to your city, please come to see us, come to my way my "GREAT NOISE CONCERT"!

MY WAY, MY LOVE is
YUKIO MURATA: vocals, guitar
Katsuya: bass
Shozo: drums

Official site: http://www.mywaymylove.com

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photograph courtesy of YUKIO MURATA.
Special thanks to YUKIO MURATA and Masashi Inoue.

Capella

Up and coming Visual-kei band CAPELLA is about to release their first single "UTSURIKAWARU SEKAI NO SEICHOTEN" this Halloween.
BCM spoke to this fun-loving young band via email.

How would you describe the music of Capella in 3 words?
Prose. Cinema. Pop.

By way of an introduction of the band, could you say something nice about each of your fellow band members?
BON: Harashima is someone who will perform when expected. Hajime is easy on himself, he's self-indulgent. Syou is adorable and good looking.
Harashima: Despite his sense being very acute and sharp, he's really gentle. Hajime is determined to become anything he wants to. Syou is good looking.
Hajime: BON is delicate and straightforward with a strong sense of responsibility! Harashima is always looking out for his surrounding and the people in it. He's a person with great sense! Syou is a mood-maker who can always calm the atmosphere!
Syou: BON looks like a doll. Harashima has a great body and Hajime can really eat.

Fashion is very important within the visual-kei scene as a way to express yourself, do you design your own stage outfits?
BON: I will have an image in my head, and then I'll discuss it with the costume designer. I'll approach them and say "I have this particular idea, are you able to make this look more costume-like?"
Harashima: I'll come up with a rough style of what I'll want it to look like, and then I'll approach the relevant people or costume designer for more concrete advices.
Hajime: Mine is complete as long as I have Kiwamu-san's (ed: *Kiwamu Kai*, head of *Starwave Records*, the record label Capella is signed to) advice!
Syou: I'll discuss mine with BON-kun and we'll design it together.

Your stage outfits are very fun-loving in appearance, are they an extent of your own personality? And how did you come up with these particular outfits?
BON: I'd say they were created with each individual's style and preference in mind but still so they'll suit the band.
Harashima: We'll think about the things we'd like to present through our music and during our lives, and through this they'll start to take shape naturally.

You obviously have a lot of fun performing live, what's your best memory of a concert you've performed at to this date?
BON: All the lives have left a great impression, but because I'm one who doesn't like to think that the past lives were better, I'll usually try to make each live to be the best every time we perform.
Harashima: I think there are definitely happy and tough times in all the lives. I often like to think about my growth as a person, therefore I think the best experience so far has been the latest live.
Hajime: Me too!
Shou: For me as well, as of now, when this interview took place, it will probably be the one held on October 6th by Capella.

What's your ultimate dream venue where you hope to perform one day?
BON: For now, the aim is Tokyo Dome!!
Harashima: For me, maybe the universe?
Hajime: I'd want it to be somewhere on the moon or out of this earth, on another planet!
Syou: As long I can play a live, I'll be glad to perform regardless of the size of the venue.

What's your favourite instrument or piece of equipment that you currently own?
BON: My body and voice. I think it is very important that one like their own instruments best.
Harashima: My MacBook pro. Since it's been involved in all my compositions, arrangements, and designs and it allows me to challenge new things as they come.
Hajime: I'm obsessed with the effector board!
Syou: VRUK DRUMMASTER's natural black.

Which artists have influenced you in playing your particular instrument?
BON: I'd say that I've probably been influenced by various artists, but if I'll have to say "it's this person!", I don't really have any one in mind.
Harashima: No one in particular.
Hajime: GLAY!!
Syou: I received quite a huge influence from Dave Grohl during Nirvana's period.

Any messages for your fans in Belgium?
BON: Please come and have fun in Japan too. And whilst you're here, please do come to our lives.
Harashima: In the past, a teacher from Belgium was working at my school as part of an exchange, and I really liked this teacher because I remember them to be very friendly. I'd like to travel to Belgium someday.
Hajime: I think it'll be really awesome if we'll be able to hold a live in Belgium someday!
Syou: Please kindly support our first single "*Utsurikawaru sekai no seichouten*"!

Official site:
http://project-ku.com

Capella is:
BON: vocals
Harashima: Guitar
Hajime: Bass
Syou: Drums

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Kusakari.
Translation by Esther Huang.
Special thanks to Capella and Kiwamu Kai.

MAGISTINA SAGA has been around since 2010 but recently not only joined famous Visual Kei label Starwave Records, but also is about to release their 2nd EP "THE TONE OF TEMPTATION" on November 21st. URUGI, KYO and IORI were kind enough to take out time to let us email interview them.

How would you describe the music of Magistina Saga in 10 words?
Urugi: Gothic, Games, Anisong, Unique, Female Vocalist, Magic, Black, Illusion, Mysterious, Fairy tale.

By way of an introduction of the band, could you say something nice about each of your fellow band members?
Kyo: We are a band consisting of a guitarist, a bassist and the only female member as the vocalist. The great point about Iori is in her lyrics, because they have such meanings to them. There are times I write lyrics but cannot pen them down with such profundity like hers, and I respect for her for that. Urugi has given me much advice and is a person I can rely on, be it for musical composition or when it comes to editing music for use during lives. Urugi plays a big part in the existence of Magistina Saga.
Urugi: This is making me a little shy. It is embarrassing to talk about the good points of my members now but I think Iori's vocals are really alluring, and her ability to handle difficult movements in melody and transitions of strong emotional melody is really great. I feel that she is an assuring asset to the band. And because of that, I was able to compose the songs with melodies I have preference over.
I have been with bassist Kyo for the longest time, and he is a very trustworthy member. Of course, I think his best point is that he is very dependable. As a bassist, he's really great as he is able to exercise great flexibility while coming up with bass lines and also his ability to create harmonious music lines.
Iori: The good point of Urugi is that he is multi-talented. Not to mention musical composition and arrangement, he also does video editing, stage wear design, styling and hair setting etc. I think his abilities to do such a variety of things is truly amazing. There were times Urugi was involved from designing to production for previous stage wear we had. Kyou's a cooperative person and I think that is his good point. Not only is he willing to listen to favours asked of him, he is also really prompt in getting work done. He has also helped me numerous times as I'm one who is rather laid-back when it comes to work.

You're about to release your second EP "*The Tone of Temptation*" where does the title come from and what would you like to tell your fans about it?
Iori: I am the one that came up with the title because the song feels like something that seduces the hearts of people. I decided on this title, hoping that it could entice people from all walks of life and to arouse their interest in Magistina Saga.
Urugi: The title describes the songs which are seductive and filled with outlook of the world. Jester, the theme for Kyo-kun's song "After Artifice" was also a part of the idea, as a Jester's performance is to entice the audience. Please let our sound incite you!

You use a lot of electronics in your songs, reminiscent of video games and anime, are you avid gamers and anime watchers? What's your favourite anime and computer game?
Urugi: Out of the members, I tend to be the weird one *laughs*. I play games every night, and listen to nothing except anime songs and game soundtracks. I could talk the entire day on the subject of the games I like. My favourite games have to be the "*METAL GEAR SOLID*" and "*KING OF FIGHTERS*" series. As for anime, my favorite is "*CODE GEASS -Lelouch of the Rebelion-*"
Kyo: Yes, I like them, be it anime or games, especially if its focus is on the story. As for anime, I am currently obsessed with "*TIGER & BUNNY*". My other favourites are "*Xam'd: Lost Memories*" and "*BLOOD+*". As for games, I like the "*FINAL FANTASY*" series.
Iori: I like anime and games too. For games I like the "*TALES OF*" series and would purchase every series. Without a doubt, I've pre-ordered the new title "*Tales of Xillia 2*" and I'm excited for its release. As for anime, the

Fashion is very important within the visual-kei scene as a way to express yourself, do you design your own stage outfits? And would you ever be interested in having your own fashion or accessories line?

Urugi: I will come up with the designs of the stage-wear/costumes, because I'm a particular and meticulous guy *laughs*. If I were to let someone think of the design for me, this person must have a deep understanding of my preference. I can't bring myself to entrust someone if they do not possess a sense of that. Please kindly give me your support if I ever start my own line of fashion brand.

Kyo: I am interested in creating a label of my own. I am quite particular about my fashion style even on normal days. Although it boils down to a matter of taste, I'll be delighted if Magistina Saga ever comes up with our own brand.

Iori: I'm not one who is good with coming up with designs, but I like silver accessories so I will have interest when it comes to that.

You describe the concept of your band as one of "fairy tale of reality and magic", is the ethereal and occult very important to you and something you are heavily influenced by?

Urugi: We wanted to prevent our name from clashing with other bands from the very beginning so we started thinking for a unique name. We have a female vocalist so we decided to make "sorceress" as the basis. From there on, I gathered some inspirations through my daily games which was heavily influenced especially by RPG and related genres. The concept was coined after we connected some of the keywords rolled off the tongue.

Iori: "Fairytales of reality and magic" sounds pretty ambiguous, but I think it's great that through this ambiguity, this concept is able to inspire various associations. I love gaming, therefore I am pretty much influenced and inspired by make-believe fantasy games and movies.

Kyo: Urugi first suggested this concept, and I felt that it was very close to the concept I had in mind which was inspired by comics. As what Iori had mentioned, I think "Fairytale of reality and magic" in itself has a very sensual and excitable meaning. Comics are like fairy tales to me; but there are also times when it encompasses reality, therefore I capture it as a sense of reality = truth. I think that it would be interesting if we are able to express the strange feeling, of something being there while it's not, through our music.

What's your favourite instrument or piece of equipment that you currently own?

Kyo: The SANSAMP that I'm using at the moment. It's been my favourite for the past few years.

Urugi: As I am the main person doing the synchronisation of the band's sound, I use software SONAR for syncing arrangements and compositions. It's been my favourite even before the band was formed. As a guitarist, my favourite is the Black Star distortion. The sound pressure is extremely good and it is able to produce the sound that I like.

Iori: I don't have a particular favourite piece of equipment, but if I were to choose one, it would be AUDIO-TECHNICA's CONDENSER MIC. I will use it in actual recording as the sound pass is great and it fits my vocal range.

You've been active since 2010, what's the greatest thing that's happened to you as a band since then?

Kyo: I think naturally it would be our first live as the headliner on September 28. Although there were some hiccups, it was one of the days that I truly enjoyed from the bottom of my heart.

Urugi: I think it would be performing activities with the three of us as a band. There are people who wanted to form a band but unable to do so due to personal commitments or family matters, thinking about this made me realise how fortunate I am to have friends whom I can trust to keep this band going, and this is really the happiest thing for me. The next thing will be when we were listed as an artist under Starwave Records. This is a great starting point for the band, and it makes me excited knowing that the band's activities will increase tremendously from hereon.

Iori: I share the same sentiments as Kyo, which would be our first headlining live of September 28. It was the first of such events in my entire life, therefore there was definitely uncertainty and fear, but it were the audience and members that supported me. And precisely because of all this support, I am able to stay active in Magistina Saga.

Any messages for your fans in Belgium?

Urugi: I will be very happy if we can make more people develop an interest in Magistina Saga through this opportunity. Let's enjoy together if we are able to perform in Belgium one day! Magistina Saga exists because of your support! Even if we're separated by distance, please extend your support to us!

Kyo: Many awesome songs have been compiled in this mini album. I hope you can listen to it on repeat! For those who have read this till the end, thank you so much!

Iori: Although currently there are no plans for a Belgian live, if the chance arises, we'll definitely go for it. When that happens, please definitely come and have fun at our live! For the mini album that will be released in November, overseas fans are able to purchase it through Starwave Records via mail-order. If you are interested, please purchase and enjoy our music. I'll be very happy if you do so!

Magistina Saga is:
Iori: vocals
Urugi: guitar
Kyo: bass

Official site: http://www.magistinasaga.com
Starwave Records website: http://www.starwaverecords.jp

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert.
Japanese translation by Esther Huang and Kyde.
Photograph courtesy of Starwave Records.
Special thanks to Magistina Saga and Kiwamu Kai.

Japanese electro-rock group GALAXY 7 is hitting Belgium twice on their European tour and have just released their second album "EYE OF THE DRAGON WHO WISHED TO BE A MAN" on October 19th. BCM caught up with DAISUKE TSUTSUI, the creative mind behind Galaxy 7 at F.A.C.T.S. where he played his first Belgian concert of the currently ongoing tour.

Welcome to Belgium! What's the first thing that pops to mind when you think of Belgium?
Everyone probably says the same, but to me it's beer and chocolate *smiles*.

You're on a pretty extensive European tour right now, which country or venue are you looking forward to performing at the most?
I'm looking forward to all places equally. It doesn't matter whether I've played there before or not, and there are a lot of places I've never been to on this tour, I'm looking forward to performing at all of them.

Your band is composed of support musicians, how do you choose members for it? What qualities do they have to have aside from being skilled at their particular instrument?
**Everyone starts laughing, as Daisuke's support drummer Taiki Matsuurawas in the room and started laughing, which was infectious*.* Obviously they have to be able to play their instruments well, that's a key factor. Aside from that there are many reasons. But one of the main ones is their personality. It doesn't matter whether they speak English or other foreign languages or not, I just want them to have very bright, outgoing and cheerful personalities. They also need to be correct and very disciplined.

There is very little time between concerts on this tour, do you get any time off for sightseeing or just yourself?
At this point I've had three concerts in an equal amount of days. But then I'll have three days off. So I do have time for myself but I'm not really thinking about what to do yet. I'm not thinking a lot about sightseeing or making any plans. If there's an opportunity to see something I will go but I'm not planning it out.

F.A.C.T.S. is a convention that's all about fandom. Is there a specific thing from a TV series, movie, science-fiction or fantasy you're a fan of?
I'm a big Star Wars fan *grins*! And there's plenty of that on this convention so I'm really excited about that! *Smiles* at this convention it's a bit different because there's so much of it, but Star Wars is appearing everywhere and I'm looking forward to seeing it every time.

Are you going to profit of the occasion to go enjoy some of the many Star Wars things at F.A.C.T.S.?
Oh yes, absolutely! Editorial note: as you can see from the photo of Daisuke with Star Wars cosplayers he totally succeeded in that plan.

Your second album *"Eye Of The Dragon Who Wished To Be A Man"* has just been released, how do you feel it reflects the growth of Galaxy 7?
A lot of the songs that are on the new albums I've made simultaneously along those of the first album, so they already existed at that point. On the first album (*Your Magic Doesn't Work Anymore*) the songs were a lot more maniacal. Those of the new album are a lot easier to understand.

What were your biggest inspirations for it?
A vlot of my compositions are based on my dreams. I'll dream about a song and then when I wake up the first thing I do is take notes and write everything down. Inspiration also tends to hit me when I'm on the toilet, in the car or when I'm watching a movie or looking at a beautiful landscape.

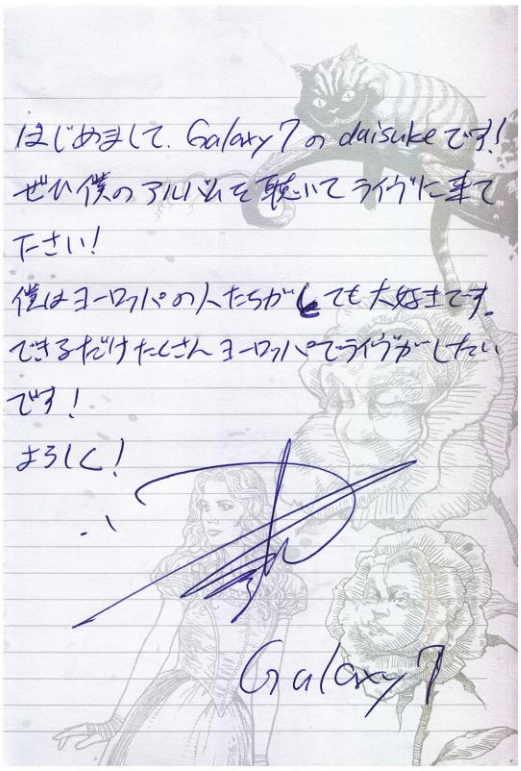
You work with a lot of electronics, could you see yourself take the step from a traditional guitar to a computerized one (such as the Misa Kitara which runs on the Linux OS) in the future?
I'm certainly not fixed on using the traditional guitar and I'm quite willing to use just about everything that exists in electronics. So I'd certainly experiment with a guitar like that if I am given the opportunity.

What are your plans for Galaxy 7 after this tour?
I've already got some tours abroad scheduled after this one and I'm already making my next album. I'm not planning to go on a tour immediately after the third album, I want to do some other things that are interesting to me.

So we can likely expect you back in 2013 with a new album?
Oh yes *smiles*!

Official site: http://galaxy7.net
For the tour dates of Galaxy 7 in November, check our calendar section!

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert (double).
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert (Star Wars photo) and courtesy of Râmen Events.
Japanese translation by Michael Hauspie.
Special thanks to Daisuke Tsutsui and Trinh Nguyen of Râmen Events.



CUPCAKE FOCUS:
Marjan

in a nutshell

Name: Marjan Van Esbroeck
Forum nick: Miss Lucy
Age: 26
Styles: Gothic and Hime
Favourite brand: Metamorphose, Temps de Fille

Wearing Lolita fashion since: May 2012

Marjan not only co-administrates the Belgian Cupcakes Lolita fashion group's new forum but she's also very active in both the J-culture and J-rock scenes in Belgium, which makes it due time to direct the BCM focus on her for this edition.

You're relatively new to Lolita fashion, how did you get into it?
I met Agnes at uni 4 years ago, but we didn't become best friends until last year. That's when her pretty dresses, skirts and headbows really started catching my attention at cons and such. We started talking and I jokingly said I'd never get away with the style. She then pointed out I've gotten away with crazier things in the past, and that got me thinking... so it started when we ordered a MMM replica together. I figured, if I really don't like it, I can still sell it, and, well... long story short, my closet now has a lot more Lolita items.

You've been to Japan earlier this year, how did you experience Lolita fashion there?
I honestly didn't see a single one. Except in *Harajuku* where the *Bodyline* and *Closet Child* stores are, *Yoyogi Park bridge* a.k.a. *Lolita Bridge* and in the *Shinjuku OIOI* department store where brands like *Moi Même Moitié*, *Baby the Stars Shine Bright*, *Alice and the Pirates*, *Angelic Pretty* and others have shops. But other than that, Lolita is not really "done" as much in Japan. My friend who lives there said Lolita can only be worn in certain places such as *Harajuku*, *Shinjuku* and *Akihabara*, mostly and for certain occasions such as Tea Parties and concerts. Very few people wear it daily there, to my experience. The fact that it was raining both times I went to Harajuku and Yoyogi Park, which are very near to each other, probably didn't help, either.

You co-run Dutch language J-culture blog Nippon Zasshi and the Belgian based English language J-rock blog J-Rock Belgium, does your love for Japanese culture and music influence your lolita style? Or do you see culture, music and fashion as one total that is just each expressed differently?
I don't feel they have anything to do with my Lolita style, personally. Come to think about it, in music my taste is towards progressive and heavy rock. But in Lolita, I've found a way to express the little girl inside me. Most people know me as the funky weird kid with crazy ideas, and I get to express that in articles I do for Nippon Zasshi. But I do sometimes feel the need to be taken care of, you know? Life isn't all responsibility, there's got to be an outlet for child-like, not child-ish, feelings, thoughts and actions. For me, that outlet is Lolita. Also, every time I mention my age, people's eyes grow up to twice their normal size, because I look younger than I am. So maybe that's why I went with Lolita as well, I can be a little girl and look the part without too much effort.

Is there any particular Lolita or J-fashion style you'd like to try one day?
Visual Kei. Oh yeah!
Can I just say that I don't entirely understand the fuss about *V-Kei* in music? People label "V-Kei" as different from "J-Rock", but most V-Kei bands play rock music. To me, V-Kei is the clothing, J-Rock is the music. I mean, when you're listening to them you don't hear the clothes, right *laughs*?

What's the favourite lolita item you own?
My favourite item currently would have to be my Moi Même Moitié *Silent Moon* handbag!

And what's your absolute dream item?
Dream item... I don't really have one at the moment, actually.

If you got to change one thing about the Lolita scene, what would it be?
The SIZES! And availability outside Japan, probably. I know Baby, the Stars Shine Bright and Angelic Pretty have a store in Paris, but I was kindda hoping the other brands would follow.

Find Marjan online:

On flickr where she forever expands her photographic endeavours: http://www.flickr.com/photos/butterflypassion

J-rock Belgium: http://j-rockbelgium.blogspot.be
Nippon Zasshi: http://www.nipponzasshi.be

And of course as contributor to this edition of BCM.

LOLITA EXTRAORDINAIRE:

Miss Kittiness

Australian based indi brand MISS KITTINESS has proven over and over again to be more than than just another indi brand with their versatile takes on sweet lolita and great divesity in their garments and fabric use.
When BCM was giving the opportunity to interview MISS SELINA PURR, the creative mind behind the label, we of course did not decline.

If you had to introduce Miss Kittiness to the world in five words, which ones would you choose?
Australian, sweet, bright, colourful, and bold.

Miss Kittiness is a really cute name, how did you come up with it?
It used to be my internet handle. Over the years I started using it for the clothing I made, but now it has become my shop and business name.

You're a very versatile designer, even making wedding dresses, what inspires you to come up with your designs?
A lot of my inspiration comes from my local community, like little things my customers say, and what they would like in a dress. I keep abreast of other trends and colours to complement current fashion, too. The wedding dress was a one off thing for the closing piece of a fashion show.

Have you always wanted to be a fashion designer?
No, I originally wanted to be in the film industry. Making clothes has always been in my life, but eventually it became a main focus of my life.

Did you follow a specific education or were you self-taught?
I'm self-taught. I've been making clothes since I was 8. My mum taught me how to make clothes from an early age, and there has always been a sewing machine in the house.

Could you describe the very first Lolita piece you ever created?
It was for my first meet. It was a black high-waisted bell-shaped skirt, with netting on the base, and a large bow at the back of the waist. Not something I'd wear now. I'm a sweet loli and the skirt was very goth loli.

Japanese fashion is known for its myriad of styles, what exactly attracted you so much about Lolita that you started a Lolita label?
I've always been really attracted to period costumes. I used to spend a lot of time drawing up costumes for period dramas. When I saw loli it attracted me, because it had so many old-fashioned ideas in the designs but with a modern twist.

Are there any other Japanese fashion styles you could see yourself incorporate in Miss Kittiness?
Probably not Japanese fashion styles. My brand dabbles more in western fashion styles, like *steampunk* or *doof/festival* fashion.

Australia is home to several Lolita design labels, who would you like to collaborate with the most from within your own country?
Victoria's Kingdom. It's my friend's brand. She does a lot of loli jewellery. I hope to collaborate and make matching prints and jewellery with her.

And if you got to collaborate with a Japanese designer, who would you choose?
Angelic Pretty. I r eally appreciate the attention to detail on their dresses.

What can you tell us about the plans for your label for the coming year?
I want to move into brand prints. I've been trying to hunt down a good graphic artist for ages, but it's hard to keep them focused, even with money dangling in front of them. I have a lot of ideas that just need an artist to turn it into a picture.

Aside from a strong online presence on both your own website and the popular social media, you also have an actual physical shop where Lolitas can gather and try things on. Do you think that having an actual store is necessary for a Lolita brand?
I don't think it's necessary. I chose to, because I wanted the shop side of it more than the design side. I like Sunday afternoons; a bunch of lolis sitting around the shop reading GLB. I also get to meet a lot of lolis that don't come to meets. So I feel I get a broader connection because I have a place to meet them.

Any advice for aspiring designers out there?
Stay focused and do lots of planning. It's easy being a designer, but it's a challenge to actually run and own a brand and shop. There are a lot of challenges and obstacles you will face. Planning for everything will help when you face them. I jumped some big hurdles to get where I am. Planning helped me a lot.

Official website: http://www.misskittiness.com

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Andrew B, Miss Kittiness and Giggle Monster.

NOVEMBER

Distant Worlds: Celebrating 2 Years of Final Fantasy
Date: 2
Venue: The Royal Albert Hall
City: London
Country: UK
Tickets & info:
http://www.royalalberthall.com

Galaxy 7 on tour
Tour dates & locations:
2: LiquID, Luxembourg
3: Café Roude Leiw, Luxembourg
4: Japan Expo Belgium, Brussels, Belgium
Tickets & info:
http://www.facebook.com/ramenevents?sk=events
Band website:
http://galaxy7.net

Japan Expo Belgium
(J-culture convention)
Date: 2 – 4
Venue: Tour & Taxis
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
Tickets & info:
www.japan-expo.be

Secret Garden Afternoon Tea & Frilly Club Night
Date: 3
Venue: 0 Vyner Street, E2 9DG
City: London
Country: UK
Tickets:
http://frillysecretgarden.eventbrite.com
Info:
https://www.facebook.com/events/432220393494368

An Cafe on tour
Tour dates & locations:
3: MILK, Moscow, Russia.
4: Zal Ojidaniya, St. Petersburg, Russia.
6: Nosturi, Helsinki, Finland.
7: O2 Academy Islington, London, UK
9: Melkweg, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
10: FZW, Dortmund, Germany.
11: Theaterfabrik, Munich, Germany.
13: Klub STUDIO, Krakow, Poland.
14: Club 202, Budapest, Hungary.
16: Magazzini Generali, Milan, Italy.
17: Espace Julien, Marseille, France.
18: Bataclan, Paris, France.
20: Astra Berlin, Germany.
Band website:
www.ancafe-web.com

HITT on tour
Tour dates & locations:
10: USTREAM TV
www.ustream.tv/channel/megahitt
14: meet & greet @ Kawai Café, Paris, France
17: Anim'Est, Nancy, France
17: Multigame, Arras, France
24: 5th Anniversary Râmen Events @ Bar Live 301, Roubaix, France
25: Gloria, Helsinki, Finland
27: Lakeside, Stockolm, Sweden
Tickets & info:
www.ramen-events.com
Artist website:
www.megahitt.com

MONO on tour
Tour dates & locations:
10: UT Connewitz, Leipzig, Germany
11: Babylon, Berlin, Germany
12: Blue Note, Poznan, Poland
13: Hydrozagadka, Warsaw, Poland
14: Loftas, Vilnius, Lithuania
15: Gertrudes 101, Riga, Latvia
16: Plan B, Moscow, Russia
17: Arctica, St-Petersburg, Russia
18: Nosturi, Helsinki, Finland
20: Debaser Slussen, Stockholm, Sweden
21: John Dee, Oslo, Norway
22: Truckstop Alaska, Gothenburg, Sweden
23: Loppen, Copenhagen, Denmark
25: Markthalle, Hamburg, Germany
27: Gebaeude9, Koln, Germany
28: Vooruit, Ghent, Belgium
29: Le Guess Who, Utrecht, The Netherlands
30: All Tomorrow's Parties, Camber Sands, UK
Tickets & info:
www.monoishere.com/tour-dates
Band website:
http://www.monoishere.com

Hyper Japan
Date: 23 – 25
Venue: Earls Court
City: London
Country: UK
Tickets & info:
http://hyperjapan.co.uk

Les Nouilles ont 5 ans!
Râmen Events 5th anniversary
Date: 24
Venue: Bar 301
City: Roubaix
Country: France
Tickets & info:
http://www.ramen-events.com

Shiori Kawana
Date: 24 & 25
Venue: Parc des Expositions d'Exponantes
City: Nantes
Country: France
Tickets & Info:
www.art-to-play.fr

DECEMBER

International Lolita Day
Dress up in your finest winter Lolita outfit and take photos to share online!
Date: 1
WORLD WIDE!

THE DARK MESSENGER
5th Anniversary of Râmen Events
ZIZ, SPEECIES & lloy in concert
+ expo and workshops
Date: 1
Venue: LR6
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
Tickets & info:
http://www.facebook.com/#!/events/432456463468969/

Râmen Events 5th Anniversary
With concerts of ZIZ, SPEECIES, lloy and HITT!
Date: 2
Venue: Le Marcounet
City: Paris
Country: France
Tickets & info:
www.ramen-events.com

HITT on tour
Tour dates & locations:
02: 5th Anniversary Râmen Events @ Le Marcounet, Paris, France
14: X'MAS SHOW @ Legia, Liege, Belgium
15: Scaramouche, Rennes, France
Tickets & info:
www.ramen-events.com
Artist website:
www.megahitt.com

Mono on tour
Tour dates & locations:
1: The Exchange, Bristol, UK
2: Sound Control, Manchester, UK
3: Oran Mor, Glasgow, Scotland
4: Mandela Hall, Belfast, Ireland
5: Cypress Avenue, Cork, Ireland
6: Button Factory, Dublin, Ireland
7: Leicester Cathedral, Leicester, UK
8: Village Underground, London, UK
9: La Maroquinerie, Paris, France
11: Rockhal, Esch-Alzette, Luxembourg
12: Jubez, Karlsruhe, Germany
13: Feierwerk, Munich, Germany
14: Dobeska Theater, Prague, Czech Republic
Tickets & info:
www.monoishere.com/tour-dates
Band website:
www.monoishere.com

Boris on tour
Tour dates & locations:
4: Brighton Coalition, Brighton, UK
5: Islington Mill, Manchester, UK
6: Scala, London, UK
7: Camber Sands Holiday Park, Rye, UK
8: Brudnell Social Club, Leeds, UK
11: Cyprus Avenue, Cork, Ireland
12: The Fleec, Bristol, UK
13: The Rainbow Warehouse, Birmingham, United Kingdom
14: Kunstencentrum België, Hasselt, Belgium
15: The Hague, The Hague, The Netherlands
16: Jubez, Karlsruhe, Germany
17: Le Romandie, Lausanne, Switzerland
18: Feierwerk e.v., Munich, Germany
19: Beatpol, Dresden, Germany
Tickets & info:
http://artistdata.sonicbids.com/boris/shows
Artist website:
http://borisheavyrocks.com/top.html

BLACK LINE on tour
Tour dates & locations:
8: B-Rock, Casablanca, Morocco
9: La Marquise, Lyon, France
11: le Quai Son, Nancy, France
12: Universum, Stuttgart, Germany
14: Gloria, Helsinki, Finland
15: Lykend Club, Wroclaw, Poland
16: Comet, Berlin, Germany
18: Headcrash, Hamburg, Germany
19: Tivoli, Utrecht, Netherlands
21: MTC, Cologne, Germany
22: la Boule Noire, Paris, France
23: Relax Club, Moscow, Russia
Tickets & info:
www.b7klan.com
Artist website:
http://blackline-official.com

Midwinter Fair
Date: 8 & 9
Venue: Archeon
City: Alphen aan den Rijn
Country: The Netherlands
Tickets & info:
www.archeon.nl

Tomoyasu Hotei
Date: 18
Venue: The Roundhouse
City: London
Country: UK
Tickets & info:
https://www.theticketfactory.com

TUTORIAL: Book purse

If you're into Lolita fashion you probably know those gorgeous book bags by brands like Innocent World. I wanted to have one for myself but the price was a bit out of my league. Online there are more tutorials which use just the cover of the book but I wanted to keep the look of the book, almost more like a prop. You can keep your wallet, cellphone and other small things in there though it really depends on the thickness of the book you'll be using.

What you will need:
- big book, check your local library for a sale or your attic, … Encyclopedias are good for this project.
- ruler, crafts knife, pencil, paint brush
- saran wrap
- white crafts glue & water
- straps: these can be leather, belts, …
- some kind of closure: a strong magnet, ribbon, a belt piece
- patience

This is a project that takes a lot of time. You might want to turn on your favourite series or films on to conquer this one.
You can make your purse in two slightly different ways, I have described both here.

1: Open the book. Take the first page and measure 2 cm from the left and right side of the page and 1,5 cm from the top and bottom of the page. Draw this rectangle.
2: Start cutting the pages. Be sure to check and redraw that rectangle. The pages of the book will shift as you go so it's important to try and line them up to get an even result.
3: When you're at some of the last pages. Check which ones the last and lay a thick piece of cardboard over this page to make sure you don't cut this one.
4: Get out your white craft glue, water and paint brush. Add a bit of water to your craft glue, to make it more fluid. Take a piece of saran wrap and put it between first and second page. Fold it over to the book cover. Close the book and paint the glue to the side of the pages.
5: Put weights on the book and let it dry.
6: Open up the book and glue the inside. Be careful not to glue the first page down. Repeat step 5.
7: Get out your magnets (if you want to use them). Glue them on the second page. Let dry.
8: Glue down the first on the second page to cover the magnets. Let it dry. Again use weights.
9: Almost done! Time to make the handles. With my book I had the luck that the space between the spine and the book cover was big enough to fit my self-made leather strap through. Put your strap through this place and sew it up. If your book has a smaller space or you want a different look, you can use two belts that you glue around the book to get a Victorian schoolbook look.

Another method is to first glue down the pages and then cut them. In which case you are to follow these steps.

1:Get out your white craft glue, water and paint brush. Add a bit of water to your craft glue, to make it more fluid. Take a piece of saran wrap and put it between first and second page. Fold it over to the top. Close the book and paint the glue to the side of the pages.
2: Put weights on the book and let it dry.
3: Open the book. Take the first page and measure 2 cm from the left and right side of the page and 1,5 cm from the top and bottom of the page. Draw this rectangle.
4: Start cutting the pages. Be sure to check and redraw that rectangle. The pages of the book will shift as you go so it's important to try and line them up to get an even result.

Tutorial by Valerie Vliegen. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Erin Samedi.

Greetings from the enchanted forest

Artwork by Anneso Vermeylen ©

WISHING YOU A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Artwork by Anneso Vermeylen ©

Christmas wishes

Artwork by Malou Rottiers ©

SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline.
Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadlines

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.
The deadline for issue 10 is **Thursday, December 20**. We're aiming for a Christmas Eve release!
Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of the 21st of December will not appear in the magazine. Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.
Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hildekitten@gmail.com
That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc etc etc.
If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be at least 2000 pixels and jpg files.
(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.
Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!
ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).
That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

NEXT EDITION

Our next edition will be BCM nr 10,
the first one of 2013, spanning the months
January and February.

Fashion
- Style Spotlight: Kodona
- Kodona fashion feature
- Interview with Matthew Sweeck of Little Alice
- Interview with We're All Mad Here

J-Music Corner
- CD reviews
- concert reviews

Interviews with
- The GazettE
- and perhaps one with Golden Bomber too!
- Rose Noire

Lifestyle
Event reviews
- Belgian Cupcakes Lolita fashion meets: October, November & December
- Japan Expo Belgium
- Emporium Vernesque
- Archeon Midwinter Fair

And more...
- Valentine's Day greeting art with art by Annso
- Exclusive art by Selina Davison!
- Outfit snap
- Favoured Cinematography

We're All Mad HERE
Icescream Print
RESERVATIONS IN DEC 2012
www.wereallmadhere.co